

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 32-33 and 35-65 are pending in the present application. Claims 32, 54, 62, and 63 have been amended. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 34. Claim 34 has been canceled. Claim 54 now recites the subject matter of claim 32 as set forth in the amendment of August 26, 2003. Claim 62 has been amended to recite a capillary electrophoresis device wherein the device comprises one or several capillaries. Support for this amendment may be found in the present specification at page 2, lines 20-25. In addition, claim 62 now recites the heat-sensitive medium of claim 32 as set forth in the amendment of August 26, 2003. Claim 63 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

Claims 34, 54-61, 64, and 65 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but determined to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 32, 33, 35-48, 53, and 62 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by L'ALLORET et al. Claims 49-52 and 63 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as

allegedly being unpatentable over L'ALLORET et al. Applicants believe the present amendment obviates these rejections.

As noted above, claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 34. As the Official Action considered the subject matter of claim 34 allowable, applicants believe that claim 32 is now in condition for allowance. As claims 33 and 35-53 are dependent on claim 32, applicants believe that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 54 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 32 as recited in the amendment of August 26, 2003. As claim 54 has been amended to include all the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, applicants believe that claim 54 is allowable. Claims 55-61 are dependent on claim 54. Thus, applicants believe that these claims are also allowable.

As to claim 62, the Official Action alleged that the claim did not provide a recitation directed to the structure of a capillary electrophoresis device. As a result, the Official Action alleged that the claim simply reflected the intended use of the claimed medium. Claim 62 has been amended to recite a capillary electrophoresis device, wherein the device contains one or several capillaries or channels. As a result, applicants believe that the claim contains a structural recitation directed to a capillary electrophoresis device. In addition, claim 62

recites that the electrophoresis device contains the medium of claim 32 as recited in the amendment of August 26, 2003.

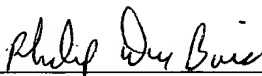
As a result, applicants believe that L'ALLORET et al. fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 32-33 and 35-65, as presented. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Philip Dubois, Reg. No. 50,696
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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